

PATENT APPLICATION



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March 26, 2003

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

Action mailed February 26, 2003.

In the Office Action, it was alleged that the inventions of Groups I and II are distinct because they are related as a combination and subcombination, the combination not requiring the particulars of the subcombination for patentability and the subcombination having a utility by itself or in other combinations. These contentions are respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that the amount of effort required by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office would be lessened by permitting all of the claims currently in the application to be prosecuted in a single application. The alternative is to proceed with the filing of another

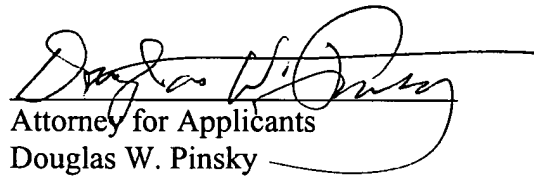
application, consisting of the same disclosure, and being subjected to substantially the same search, perhaps by a different Examiner on a different occasion, with the resultant burden on the Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the requirement for restriction and allow the claims currently in the application to be prosecuted in a single application.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.143, Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group II, namely, Claims 73-83.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. Office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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